

The Wonderful, Strange, Apparition and Ghost Of Edward Ashley,

the Widdow Ashley's Son, that lives in Little Russell-Street in Bloomsbury, near the Hole in the Wall, who several times appear'd to his Wife, Mary Davice, living in Ray's Court, in Cross-Street, near Holbourn. How he desired her to Ride out of Town with him; and the 23th of March the Spirit brought another Ghost and a White Horse, and setting her thereon, they Rode in Lambs-Conduit-Fields and Bloomsbury-Market, then set her down at the Hole in the Wall by the Market. How he discover'd to her the Wedding Ring, and upon taking his Leave, Vanished in a Flash of Fire. Upon her Screeking out, Joseph Hill, a Watchman, found her in a Shift and one Petticoat barefoot; and upon her Examination and Confession, carried her to her Lodging, where she lies in great Torment; and several Divines and Thousands of People flock daily to see her. You have also Added an Excellent Sermon Preach'd by a Reverend Divine of the Church of England on that Miraculous Occasion, and very suitable to the Subject.

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The Wonderful Strange Apparition and Ghost of Edward Ashley, &c:

THE Apparitions and Ghosts of deceased Persons are so very rare, that they are hardly credited by any one, but this that I am going to Treat of, has made such a Noise all over the Town, that the greatest Unbeliever of such Matters may be satisfied to all Intents and Purposes, which is as follows,

It seems, *Mary Davie*, a Chair-woman, now living in *Ray's-Court*, in *Crossstreet* near *Holbourn*, used to be employ'd in her Business at the Widow *Ashley's* House, living in *Little Russelstreet*, near *Bloomsbury-Market*, in the Parish of *St. Giles's in the Fields*, and using every Week to come a Charing there for several Years together; she was always look'd upon as one of the Family, and in process of time, was left alone at the House, while the Widow *Ashley* used to go abroad and buy in Things for her Conveniency, for you must know she kept a Chandlers Shop.

This Acquaintance begot a sort of a Familiarity, and the Widow having a Son, known by the Name of *Edward Ashley*, who was formerly a very Witty sprightly and Ingenious Lad; but after a violent fit of Sickness his Senses were taken from him, that in a manner he was a meer Natural, and wou'd go moping about, as if he were a Fool.

This you must needs think Struck the Mother into a sad and sorrowful Condition for her Son, and made her somewhat Melancholly thereat, but time wore that somewhat off, so that she began to be pritty well

well satisfied in her Mind of the Will and Pleasure of the Almighty.

Thus from time to time she did what she could to restore him to his Senses, but all to no purpose, and despairing of Cure, rested contented in her present Misfortunes.

Thus, as I said before, this *Mary Davice* the Chairwoman, became, as it were, a Familiar in the House, as was looked upon as one of the Family, which Suppose put her upon Thoughts the Widow being rich, to Court this Natural, or at least gave him such Encouragement to Court her, I can't well say which, but one or both it was.

For as Fame reports this *Mary Davice*, and *Edward Affley*, held on private Courtship and Correspondence for a considerable time together, till at last it grew as it were, to a Matrimonial Contract, and so private were they in their Amour, that it did not appear at all to the World till after his Death, which take as follows.

This young Man seeing a sort of topping Man come after her, one as she used to Wash for, and he thinking it was one that came to deprive him of his Mistress, grew Jealous of her, and truly did not stick to tell her, that he believ'd that the said Gentleman was one that had a real Kindness for her, and if that she had any Respect for him, she wou'd not keep him Company, or suffer him to come after her; but she plainly told him, that there was no such thing as Courtship in the matter, and that he might rest himself satisfied she ne'er design'd to have any Person but himself. Yet that did not avail with him, for he had a secret Thought came into his Head, that the Gentleman then must needs be her Spark, and the thoughts thereof struck him into a deep Melancholly, and did not see his Beloved so oft as formerly, and at last
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fell into a violent Feavour, and very bad he was, and several came to see him, but he growing worse and worse, and not sending for his Sweetheart, nor she not coming to see him as she ought, he fell in a raving and distracted Condition, being Light-headed, and then 'twas past speaking in his Senses to any Body, for at that time he had but very little left him.

However, in procees of time he dy'd without seeing his Mistress, and she not having a sight of him while living, after he was interred grew very Melancholly for two or three Months together; and above all the rest, she was very much dissatisfied that she did not see him, and had a longing desire to see him.

One Night as she was lying in her Bed, and wishing to see him, in the midst of her Thoughts she heard a strange Ratling of the Curtains, at which she was somewhat surpriz'd, and covered her self over Head and Ears with the Bed-cloaths, as very much affrighted; she had not lain so long but she fell into a Sweat, and then wish'd she might not see him, and with much ado she fell into a Sleep, but now and then wou'd suddenly awake and imagin'd she saw something in the Room; but not hearing any more of the Ratling of the Curtains, she was somewhat satisfied and slept quietly till the Morning.

Next Night she was in a longing Condition to see her Sweetheart as before, and then mightily desired, when on a sudden she beheld something in White, as she thought, walk about the Room, and taking Courage, she spoke to it, and presently it answer'd her in that Voice which she very well knew, and seem'd to be very well satisfied, and rejoyced at the hearing thereof, and asked the Spirit what he came thither for.

Said the Spirit, *I could not rest till I saw you, for you have been the occasion of my Death, and it was barbarous*

various not coming to see me in my Sickness. She reply'd, that what she had said touching the Gentleman which you had Jealousie of, I told you the Truth, and there was nothing in it at all, and there I was not the occasion of your Death; and for my not coming to see you, I thought you was Angry, and that I should but disturb you in your Sickness, made me I did not come; but little did I expect your Death, and God above knows that I have been so concerned thereat, that it has struck me into a deep Melancholly; and I believe the Lord heard my Wishes; for nothing upon Earth long'd more to see you than I, and that is the Reason, I suppose, you are sent to me.

The Ghost reply'd, That he cou'd not rest neither till he was fully satisfied in the Matter too, and since he had been so Ingenious to confess all, he was come to inform her of something that wou'd mightily satisfie her, if she wou'd but consent to ride out of Town a Mile or two with him; at which she was somewhat startled, and said, that in two or three Days time she wou'd resolve him whether she wou'd do it or not; the Ghost then made a formal sort of a Bow, went away and left her to her self, and she being somewhat better satisfied in her Mind, went to sleep, and took her Natural Rest.

Next Morning she told some of her Friends of the Matter, and they advis'd her by all means to go and consult a Divine of the Church of *England*, which she did, and he advis'd her by all Means to go with him, for it might be the means to occasion his being at Rest, and after she came and told her Friends of this Advice, they also councill'd her to do it, so that at last she was resolv'd on it.

The same Night the Spirit came to her, to know her Resolutions, and she told him she wou'd comply with his Desire, and hop'd that he wou'd do her no harm; he reply'd, *What, do harm to that which I loved so dearly,*

dearly, no, never fear I will; and o upon each other Promise, they seemingly part with Content and Satisfaction on both sides.

The next Night being the time appointed, the said *Mary Davice* was very heavy to sleep, and sleeping very sound, had forgot her Promise; and the Ghost coming into *Ray's Court* in *Crossstreet*, in *Holbourn*, where she lodg'd, call'd to her to get up, the Spirit had much ado to wake her; but at last answering she was coming, only slipt on a Petticoat and went unto him in her Shift barefooted, and seeing the Ghost in so splend'd a Condition, being drest all in White, and as it were, had a shining Rayment on, began to be frighted, and asked him whether it was an Evil Spirit or not, for she fear'd it was not the Spirit she saw before, the Ghost reply'd, That *Evil Spirits never appear White, nor are they clad in such splend'd shining Rayments*; at which she was somewhat satisfied, but was mightily surpriz'd when she saw, as it were, an other Spirit holding an Horse by his Bridle: *What*, said she, *is this Ghost to go with us in Company too?*

The Ghost reply'd, *Tes, it must, for that is our Guardian Angel which will keep us from all Harms*. At last she was mounted behind him on a Pillion, and the other Ghost led the Horse out of the Court down the Steps, which is about four Steps above the Street, and cry'd out to the Ghost of *Edward Ashley* that was before her on the Horse, that she was afraid she shou'd fall off. He bid her fear not, for he wou'd take care she shou'd not fall; so out they went and rid about *Lamb-Conduit Fields*, and then round about *Bloomsbury-Market*; and at last told her he had design'd to have married her, had bought her a Ring, and she wou'd find it on a Beam in his Room he dy'd in, betwixt the Tyling; and after he set her down at the Hole in the Wall, a Pastery-Cooks, in a Passage betwixt *Bloomsbury-*

Bury Market and Little Russelstreet, and there taking his last Leave of her, he vanish'd away in a Flash of Fire, which so affrighted her, that she gave an hideous Screek.

Which *Joseph Hill*, a Watchman, living in *Little Russelstreet*, being on his Rounds heard, and declares to the World is a Truth, and that he took up the said *Mary Davice* in the said Dress, as before is recited, and that he found her Bottoms of her Feet not dirty at all, and she told him she was but just set down as he came by. However, Home he carried her to her Lodging in *Ray's-Court*, and found her Doors open, and every thing as she had told him to be a Truth. He knocks up the People, who came down, and in a great Fright went up with her, and put her to Bed, and some of them sat up with her till the next Morning, and the poor Woman lies now in a very desperate and dangerous Condition, and is as it were Light-headed. Several Divines have been with her, and the Minister of *St. Giles's* among the rest, and thousands of Spectators to see her, who flock after her daily at her Lodgings at the Place aforesaid.

An Excellent Sermon preach'd upon this Occasion, by a Reverend Divine of the Church of *England*.

Taken out of these several Portions of Scripture, viz.

Job 8. v. 14. Isa. 21. v. 9. Job. 42. v. 13. Job 6. part of 5. 6. and 7. Verses. Isa. 21. v. 12. The Words are these, *Make haste my Beloved. 2. And behold here cometh a couple of Horsemen. 3. Who can discover the Face of his Garment. And I rose up to open to my Beloved, but he withdrew himself and was gone. and my Soul failed when he spoke; and the Watchman that went about the City found me. 5. And he cried Night cometh, also the Morning, and if ye will enquire, enquire ye? return, and come.*

THE Text my Beloved you see is very fitly adapted unto the aforementioned Relation and Subject, which I now to handle; for what can be more suitably apply'd

For

For-First, you have as it were, the veru Spirit calling up to his Mistress's Window, in the first Words of my Text, *viz. Make haste my Beloved.*

2dly, Here is his visible appearing to her with the other Spirit in the Words set forth, *And behold here cometh a couple of Horsemen.* 3dly, You have a Description of his strange Garment in the Words, who can discover the Face of his Garment, it being so bright, that he dazzeled the Eyes of the Beholder, that was his beloved Mistress that saw it.

4thly, You have an Account of her geting up, and going to her beloved in the Words, *And I arose up to open to my beloved, but he withdrew,* that was vanish'd out of her Sight, and was gone, that she cou'd not find him; but anon she was very much surpriz'd, for her Soul failed when she heard him speak; and after she had been her intended Journey will be at his last taking his Leave went away in a flash of Fire, which made her Schreek out, that the Watchman who used to go about the Town hearing it, found her out; as he was crying the Night cometh, as also the Morning, and after Examination and Confession to him, of all the Matter of Fact, it naturally follows, that if any Person has a mine to enquire after the Truth of this Matter, the Scripture says, Enquire ye, that is, ask the Watchman if he found her not in the Street, as is aforesaid related, and he will tell you the Truth of, and it is set for as a sort of an Exhortation to the People so to

o when the Scripture says, *Return, that ye go back again and come and see if you will not believe me, you will surely believe your own Eyes.*

Which God of his Infinite Mercy bring Us all to, for the dear sake of Jesus Christ the Righteous, to whose Name be ascribed all Glory, Power, Majesty and Dominion, both now and for evermore, Amen and Amen.

